



LETTERS

Another look at the KAUR question

To the Editor:

The recent frenzy of consternation by the KAUR staff over the thought of students gaining control over their KAUR fee money would be amusing were not thousands of dollars involved. The basic issue here has gone remarkably untouched: KAUR's accountability.

Several letters protesting the ASA's action in taking over control of KAUR have mentioned the KAUR Advisory Board, as if the mere existence of such a body were an answer to the real questions that have been raised about KAUR control. How many times during the past year has the board met? Were the meetings publicized? Were they even open to the students who are shelling out \$5 a year to keep KAUR going? Who is on the board? Do students have any say in the selection of its membership?

No one on ASA was trying to kill KAUR by this resolution, and any interference in programming was specifically ruled out. ASA, on behalf of the students, was merely trying to assert some measure of control over 1) how much money KAUR receives; 2) how it is spent, and 3) who spends it. If that doesn't seem reasonable to those at KAUR, perhaps that in itself is the best argument of all for the ASA's action. The students pay for KAUR, and they should control it; it is no one's very expensive plaything.

It may indeed be a fault of the ASA that no one from KAUR was specifically invited to the meeting in question. However, KAUR's general manager was at that time running for ASA President, and it might seem logical to assume he would have been interested enough in student government to attend in any case. Furthermore, several members of the council, including then-President Dave Jarratt, have worked at KAUR.

The argument that KAUR is worthwhile for students because it has trained local DJ's is fatuous in the extreme. We don't benefit from this — the local stations do. Perhaps *they* should be paying the bill?

The *only* justifications for the KAUR fee and the continued existence of the station revolve around two questions: 1) How many students are involved in KAUR programming and staffing?, and 2) How many students listen to KAUR? The number of listeners in the community as a whole, or outside staff members, is irrelevant; they do not pay. We pay and we should be asking what benefits we receive in return. I trust that the new ASA administration will get us some answers.

As ever,
Dave Fryxell